

# CDBG and CSBG Funding Allocations; Expanded Internet Service for HCSD Clients with School Aged Children



Housing & Community  
Services

September 15, 2020



# Background



- The City of Wichita is recognized as an entitlement city by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and receives Federal funding for community development activities.
- One specific entitlement funding source includes the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.



# Background



- The City of Wichita is also a recipient of Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Funding.
- CSBG Funds are provided by the US Department of Health and Human Services to the State of Kansas Housing Resources Corporation (KHRC).
- KHRC allocates the funds to eight Community Action Programs in Kansas, one of which being the Wichita Sedgwick County Community Action Partnership (WSCCAP) within the H&CS Department.



# CARES Act Funding



- In addition to the City's 2019-2020 annual CDBG funding allocation of \$2,806,594, the City received \$1,725,897 in CDBG funding authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act).



# CARES Act Funding



- In addition to the City's 2019-2020 annual CSBG funding allocation of \$1,002,672, the City received \$1,373,553 in CSBG funding authorized by the CARES Act.
- CDBG & CSBG funding authorized by the CARES Act must be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency.



# Analysis



- COVID-19 has greatly impacted schools nationwide as it has become necessary for a substantial number of students to have access to adequate internet services to allow for participation in on-line learning activities.
- USD 259 staff contacted the H&CS Department regarding possible funding for the expansion of internet access for school-age children.



# Analysis



- There are currently 2,663 school-age children residing in households across both Wichita Housing Authority (WHA) programs, as well as 97 The Way to Work (TWTW) program participants.
- Staff recommends utilization of City CARES Act funding, both CDBG and CSBG, to assist these households with access to internet services sufficient to participate in school on-line learning activities.



# Connect2Compete



- Access is to be provided through Cox Communications' "Connect2Compete" affordable internet program as part of HUD's ConnectHome Internet Adoption Effort.
- Eligible households must have at least one K-12 student and must participate in a government assistance program.





# Analysis



- The cost of the program for one year is estimated at \$156,600.
- Staff recommends the following allocation breakdown:
  - CDBG CARES: \$135,120
  - CSBG CARES: \$21,480



# Analysis



- CDBG CARES funds will be used to support school aged children within the WHA, that reside within the City limits.
- CSBG CARES funds will be used to support TWTW participants, as well as those school aged children within in the WHA that reside outside of the City limits.
  - The WHA Housing Choice Voucher program serves clients residing in Butler, Harvey and Sedgwick counties, with the exception of the City of Newton.



# Financial Considerations



- Resources from the State and County are insufficient to meet the need.
- There is no impact to the General Fund, as a result of this action.



# Legal Considerations



- A Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Wichita and Cox Communications will be approved as to form by the Law Department.



# Recommendation



- It is recommended that the City Council approve the CDBG-CARES and CSBG-CARES funding allocations and authorize the necessary signatures.



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